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Item 81 of the preliminary list*

MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 28 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Appeal of the Seimas (Parliament) of the Republic of Lithuania to the Parliaments and Heads of State and Government of the member States of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on the NATO enlargement, which was adopted in Vilnius on 24 April 1997.

I should be grateful if you would have the Appeal circulated as a document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, under item 81 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Oskaras JUSYS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Lithuania to the United Nations

* A/52/50.

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Annex

Appeal of the Parliament of Lithuania to the Parliaments and Heads of State and Government of the member States of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, adopted in Vilnius on 24 April 1997

The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania,

Convinced that NATO enlargement will help achieve the ultimate goal - the creation of a stable, secure and unified Europe, the implementation of market reform, and the strengthening of democracy and the Euro-Atlantic community,

Keeping in mind the 1996 Lisbon document which confirms the inalienable right of each State freely to choose or alter its security arrangements, including treaties on alliances, and which is in full conformity with international agreements to which Lithuania is a party, including the 29 July 1991 Treaty between the Republic of Lithuania and the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic on the Principles of Relations between States, under which Russia expressed its consent to Lithuania's independent implementation of its sovereignty in the sphere of defence and security, as well as in its choice of the system of collective security,

Emphasizing that Lithuania, being an integral part of Western civilization, cherishes democracy, freedom of the individual and the rule of law and seeks to exist in Europe united on the basis of shared values,

Underscoring the seminal role of the Baltic region for European security,

Confirming Lithuania's resolve to contribute together with the other Baltic States to European security through its active participation in the Partnership for Peace Programme, the peacekeeping effort, bilateral operations and dialogues with NATO member States,

Noting Lithuania's conformity to the NATO membership criteria, and also the cooperation between the Baltic States and their determination to fulfil the alliance's membership obligations,

Convinced that in the event of failure to include the Baltic States in the NATO enlargement process their progress towards democracy and stability may be jeopardized,

Understanding the unity of the Baltic States as stated in the 2 December 1995 resolution of the Baltic Assembly session in Tallinn that the achievement of one of the three States shall be regarded as the achievement of all three,

Aware that the accession of at least one of the Baltic States during the first stage of NATO enlargement would be beneficial to all three and would be evidence that the Euro-Atlantic institutions are opening up for all three Baltic States and would consolidate the advances of the Baltic States and preclude the

artificial separation of the Baltic States from the other Central European States,

Urges the Governments of the NATO member States and the North Atlantic Council, during the Madrid summit in July 1997:

To invite the Baltic States or at least one Baltic State to start NATO accession negotiations together with the first alliance candidates,

To disapprove of the attempts to bar the Baltic States from participating in the Euro-Atlantic integration processes as full members.